GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3590
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
UN SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRISONS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations (UN) has issued any new standards and specifications for prisons;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to incorporate the new standards for prisons in the country;

(d) if so,the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such standards/specifications are likely to be incorporated in the prisons of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b): No,Sir.

However,UN Standard Minimum Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners 1955 provide guidelines for the treatment of prisoners and the management of penal institutions.

(c) to (e): " Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the State Governments.However, the Government of India has prepared a Model Prison Manual in 2003 for the superintendence and management of prisons in India.The Manual contains the norms/standards on the different aspects of prison management including the specifications for different kind of prisons based on the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisons 1955.This has been circulated to all the States/UTs in the 2003 for its adoption with suitable modifications based on ground situations and local conditions.No time limit has been fixed for incorporating the same by the State Governments.